

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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R 290743Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0753
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, JA, SU
SUBJECT: JSP SENDS DELEGATION TO MOSCOW

REF: TOKYO 08952

1. UPPER HOUSE MEMBER SEICHI KAWAMURA WILL LEAD FIVE-MAN JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY (JSP) DELEGATION TO SOVIET UNION AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 3 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY INTERNATIONAL BUREAU. MAJOR TOPICS, ACCORDING TO STATEMENT BY KAWAMURA AUGUST 24, WILL BE JAPAN-SOVIET RELATIONS IN WAKE OF CONCLUSION OF PFT WITH CHINA; FISHERY PROBLEMS; ECONOMIC COOPERATION; AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIRST VISIT TO MOSCOW BY ASUKATA SINCE HIS ELECTION AS JSP CHAIRMAN.

2. JSP GROUP HAS BEEN RECEIVING SUBSTANTIAL PRESS ATTENTION AS FIRST DIETMEN'S DELEGATION TO VISIT
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MOSCOW SINCE PFT SIGNING AUGUST 14. TIMING OF SOVIET INVITATION, WHICH JSP REQUESTED IN LATE JUNE BUT WHICH WAS NOT ISSUED UNTIL AUGUST 16, HAS ALSO HEIGHTENED EXPECTATIONS THAT MOSCOW WILL USE VISIT AS OPPORTUNITY FURTHER TO ASSERT ITS VIEWS ON PFT, AND TO INDICATE DIRECTIONS OF POST-PFT DIPLOMACY TOWARD TOKYO. MOREOVER, INASMUCH AS NO JSP CHAIRMAN HAS VISITED

MOSCOW SINCE 1974, AND CHAIRMAN ASUKATA HAD TO POSTPONE MOSCOW VISIT PLANNED FOR LAST JUNE, DISCUSSIONS ON NEW DATE FOR ASUKATA WOULD BE VIEWED AS INDICATION OF FUTURE SOVIET INTENTIONS TOWARD JAPANESE OPPOSITION PARTIES.

3. JSP INTERNATIONAL BUREAU STAFFER TOLD EMBOFF AUG 28 THAT JSP REGARDED PRIMARY PURPOSE OF DIETMEN'S VISIT AS ARRANGING ASUKATA VISIT, HOPEFULLY THIS YEAR AND PREFERABLY BEFORE MEETING OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL IN VANCOUVER IN EARLY NOVEMBER. HE SAID PARTY EXPECTED DELEGATION'S INTERLOCUTORS WOULD ATTACK PFT, AND POSSIBLY JSP FOR SUPPORTING IT, AND WAS ALSO PREPARED FOR RENEWED SOVIET PITCH ON BEHALF OF ITS "GOOD NEIGHBOR" TREATY WITH JAPAN. STAFFER SAID JSP GROUP WOULD SEEK TO CLARIFY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOVIET-PROPOSED TREATY AND ITS OWN FOR "PEACE TREATY," BUT WOULD ISSUE NO COMMUNIQUE. HE SAID JSP WAS HOPING DELEGATION WOULD HELP CLEAR AIR BETWEEN SOVIETS AND JSP, AND LAY GROUNDWORK SO THAT ASUKATA COULD AVOID CONTENTIOUS ISSUES DURING HIS VISIT.

4. COMMENT: RELATIONS BETWEEN SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY AND JSP HAVE BEEN STRAINED IN RECENT YEARS BY SOCIALISTS' ARDENT SUPPORT FOR PFT, ESPECIALLY IN STATEMENTS ISSUED DURING VISITS BY PREVIOUS CHAIRMAN NARITA AND CURRENT CONFIDENTIAL

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CHAIRMAN ASUKATA TO PEKING. HOWEVER, WITH CONCLUSION OF PFT, ASUKATA HAS UNDOUBTEDLY COME UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM POWERFUL, PRO-SOVIET SOCIALISM ASSOCIATION WING OF JSP TO REDRESS IDEOLOGICAL BALANCE THROUGH PILGRIMAGE TO MOSCOW. JSP LEADERSHIP ALSO NO DOUBT HOPES THAT ASUKATA VISIT TO MOSCOW SHORTLY AFTER CONCLUSION OF PFT WILL GIVE PARTY IMAGE OF PLAYING DIPLOMATIC ROLE. (PERHAPS WITH THIS IN MIND, JSP STATEMENT WELCOMING PFT SIGNATURE PLACED CONSIDERABLE STRESS ON NEED FOR IMPROVING JAPAN-SOVIET RELATIONS). HOWEVER, PARTY LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN ANXIOUS TO AVOID REPEAT OF POOR ASUKATA PERFORMANCES EARLIER THIS YEAR IN PEKING AND PYONGYANG, WHERE CHAIRMAN SUBMITTED SUPINELY TO HOSTS' DEMANDS ON SEVERAL SENSITIVE ISSUES IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE (REFTEL), AND HAS THEREFORE DECIDED TO SEND KAWAMURA'S DELEGATION FIRST TO PAVE THE WAY. MANSFIELD

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